Two Sapulpa scholars retire from Hissom

By Jo Walling
Herald Staff Writer

Now that Juliette Updike has retired, she plans to pick up where she left off 25 years ago in Sapulpa.

She, and another Sapulpan, Bernadine Harrison, both retired from Hissom School in Sand Springs May 30, 1985.

Updike was the first teacher ever hired at Hissom and she started the first class for blind retarded children in the state.

For that effort, she was cited by the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

She was employed at Hissom, a part of the Sand Springs Public School System, for 21 years, and has lived in Sapulpa since her marriage in 1942.

Prior to her employment at Hissom, Updike was active for years in local civic organizations, including Camp Fire Girls. She intends to get back into the local flow of activities now that she has time.

Updike always had an interest in the young people of Sapulpa, she says, but her vast medical background led her to the teaching career at Hissom.

Her father and grandfather both were doctors and two of her brothers were doctors as well.

Juliette Updike

During her 21-year career at Hissom, Updike received national, state and local awards. She was the American Association on Mental Deficiency's National Teacher of the Year in 1981, and in 1980 she was named Sand Springs Teacher of the Year.

Bernadine Harrison

Updike also was named Oklahoma Special Education Teacher of the Year by the Oklahoma Federation of Councils for Exceptional Children.

Besides her bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, Updike holds a master of teaching arts degree from the University of Tulsa and a specialist in education degree from the George Paebody College at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

Updike is an active member of Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Sapulpa.

Bernadine Harrison holds equal credentials.

She taught for 37 years before her retirement; 34 of those were in the Sand Springs School System. She joined the Hissom staff 16 years ago.

She was named Sand Springs Teacher of the Year in 1983.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree from Southern Illnois University at Carbondale. She also has completed advanced courses in special education at the University of Tulsa.

For 13 years while at Hissom, Harrison taught an educable mentally handicapped class then began teaching in the Halfway House Training Program.

In Sapulpa, she is active in several local civic organizations and is a member of First Christian Church.